[20th August 1925

(b) One case was filed and disposed of. A sum of Rs. 168 was awarded as compensation.

(c) Seven rupees.

Public Service.

Increments to acting clerks in continuous service.

*211 Q.—Khan Bahadur HAJI ABDULLA HAJI QASIM SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether acting (but passed) clerks without any substantive appointments with continuous acting service are allowed annual increments at the rate admissible on the scale on which they are borne;

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to state whether unpassed men do not come under the category of 'clerks'?

A.—(a) Yes, subject to the service being approved.

(b) The question is not understood. A certain number of clerks are unpassed men and subject to the rules relating to such.

Salt.

Saltpetre factories and refineries in the Presidency.

*212 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have issued a G.O. No. 25, Finance (C.S.), dated 13th February 1925, upon the proceedings of the Collector of Salt Revenue, No. 4640 (Salt), dated 6th December 1924, ordering the closing of the saltpetre factories and refineries in the Madras Presidency with effect from 1st October 1925;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government did not give a chance either to those engaged in the manufacture of crude and refined saltpetre or to the public to state their views and objections with regard to closing the factories;

(c) whether Government are aware that a very large number of people, traders as well as coolies, are engaged in this industry many of whom will be ruined if this industry is thus suddenly put an end to;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the quantity and quality of the crude saltpetre produced in this province depend very much on the sufficiency of rainfall in the area in which the pans are situated;

(e) whether it is not a fact that the recent reduction in the production of saltpetre is due to the diminished rainfall in the recent years;

(f) whether Government are aware that dealers engaged in this industry have advanced large sums to the 'uppiliars' working for them and that they would find it difficult to realize these advances if this industry is thus suddenly sought to be put an end to;

(g) whether as regards the manufacture of common salt and also as regards fish-curing yards Government usually give adequate notice before calling upon them to close their factories;

(h) whether Government are aware that as regards the manufacture of crude saltpetre a bare six months' notice for closing long-established concerns has been given;